**English Research Project**

**MLA In-text Citation Rules**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_**

#### When a Citation Is Not Needed

Common sense should determine your need for documenting sources. You do not need to give sources for well-known quotations or ***common knowledge***.

#### Basic In-Text Citation Rules

In MLA style, referring to the works of others in your text is done by using what is known as parenthetical citation. This method involves placing relevant source information in parentheses after a quote or a paraphrase.

Any source information that you provide in-text **must correspond** to the source information on the Works Cited page. Specifically, **the signal word you provide to your readers in the text, MUST be the first word that appears on the left-hand margin of the entry in the Works Cited.** (Refer to the model cell phones and driving research paper provided)

* **Every paragraph** in the rough draft shall contain an in-text citation. The only exception may be the introduction with the use of a personal anecdote or definition.
* **In-Text Citations: Author-Page Style**

MLA format follows the ***author-page method*** of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page. **The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation or paraphrase, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence**.

**For example:**

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).   
  
Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

The citations in the examples above, (263) and (Wordsworth 263), tell readers that the information in the sentence can be located on page 263 of a work by an author named Wordsworth.

* **In-text Citations for Print Sources with Known Author**

For Print sources like books, magazines, scholarly journal articles, and newspapers, provide a signal word or phrase (usually the author’s last name) and a page number. If you provide the signal word/phrase in the sentence, you do not need to include it in the parenthetical citation.

* **In-text Citations for Print and Internet Sources with No Known Author**

When a source has ***no known author***, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name. Place the title in quotation marks if it's a short work (e.g. articles) or italicize it if it's a longer work (e.g. plays, books, television shows, entire websites) and provide a page number.

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has “more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . . ” (“Impact of Global Warming” 6).

In this example, since the reader does not know the author of the article, an abbreviated title of the article appears in the parenthetical citation which corresponds to the full name of the article which appears first at the left-hand margin of its respective entry in the Works Cited. Thus, the writer includes the title in quotation marks as the signal phrase in the parenthetical citation in order to lead the reader directly to the source on the Works Cited page.

* **Citing a Work by Multiple Authors**

For a source with three or fewer authors, list the authors' last names in the text or in the parenthetical citation:

Smith, Yang, and Moore argue that tougher gun control is not needed in the United States (76).

The authors state "Tighter gun control in the United States erodes Second Amendment rights" (Smith, Yang, and Moore 76).

* **We'll learn how to make a Works Cited page next**, but right now it's important to know that parenthetical citations and Works Cited pages allow readers to know which sources you consulted in writing your essay, so that they can either verify your interpretation of the sources or use them in their own scholarly work.